

# Muslims urged to vote

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The purpose of Islamic Sharia can be summed up as follows: to protect and safeguard people's lives property's, children, freedom of religion and honour. This can only be achieved by establishing a good government. For good governance, Islam has taught us two basic principles: consultation and equality of mankind. Democracy is one of the ways to implement these principles and achieve good governance. This is why Muslim scholars and Muslim countries are trying to have a democratic government.

The financial crisis, the recession, the MP's expenses scandal and the Iraq war enquiry have severally dented the reputation of the parliament – British voters have become even more sceptical of the integrity of our politicians.

The trust in politics, public institutes and leaders has been eroded.

However our faith teaches us to be hopeful –

“Never despair of god's mercy, have hope and avoid cynicism and despair”

Politicians can help us by doing 3 things:-

- 1) Treat voters as intelligent people and admit that our problems are very deep i.e. be humble
- 2) Stop the political spin, less marketing and branding and more substance
- 3) Don't let the media moguls determine the victory for their chosen favourite party, by objectively informing the public.

If we don't do this then sadly, many people will brand politics a “dirty game” – one from which we should distance ourselves.

As Muslims we cannot adopt an apathetic and casual attitude towards politics. Islamic teachings expect us to care about our society – be involved in politics and work hard to influence decisions in our community. I know this is not easy, it requires hard work!

This positive attitude to politics will empower Muslims and make them feel responsible for their society. We will then have little to blame politicians for when things go wrong.

In our mature British democracy, every citizen, every Muslim has a say. From how much money is spent on the NHS, money spent schools to war's.

Remember some of the most important decisions affecting the world are made by politicians.

Let's make our politicians feel responsible and answerable to us by getting involved.

Our faith can guide us to help our politicians make the right decisions, let us all ask ourselves 3 important questions:-

- 1) Can we continue to allow unfettered, uncontrolled capitalism keep going?
- 2) Is the relentless pursuit of material wealth going to make us a good society?
- 3) What would a fairer, earthly, friendly economics look like?

Muslims should pray for their politicians to be guided to make the right decisions.